facilities for the workers in these sectors under existing Welfare Funds for beedi workers, cine workers and certain non-coal mine workers. An expenditure of Rs. 52.65 crore, Rs. 68.16 crore and Rs. 71.60 crore has been incurred for the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively under these funds.

The Government are also implementing a number of Plan Schemes like Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampoorn Gramin Rojgar Yojana (Employment Assurance Scheme and Jawahar Gram Smaridhi Yojana transferred from September 2001), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana etc. for the welfare and improvement of the conditions of rural unorganised workers in the country.

A large number of existing labour laws protecting the interests of workers like the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 and Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Services) Act, 1979, the Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 and Building and Other Construction Workers's Welfare Cess Act, 1996 are also applicable to some categories of workers in the unorganised sector.

(b) to (c) According to the Sample Survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 1999-2000, there are about 369 million unorganised workers in the country.

Increase in child labourers

269. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of child labourers in the country has increased during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of child labourers during the last three years;

(c) what added incentives are being provided to child labourers at present; and

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(d) what has been the allocation of funds for child labourers during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (b) Authentic information on child labour in the country is generated by the decennial census. According to the 1981 and 1991 census, the number of working children in India was 13.60 and 11.28 million respectively. The figures of the 2001 census have not been published.

(c) The Government of India has been implementing two schemes for the benefit of children withdrawn from work namely the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) and the Scheme of Grants-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations. The Major Activity under the Schemes is running of special schools/centres for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through non-formal education, vocational training, nutrition, health care, stipend etc.

(d) The following amounts have been released for implementation of child labour programmes by the Government during the last three years;

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
1999-2000	Rs. 3796.78
2000-2001	Rs. 3798.24
2001-2002	Rs. 6193.56

NGO's help to check child labour

270. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the steps taken to check the child labour in the country;

(b) whether help from the Non-Government Organisation has also been sought for this work;

(c) whether a survey has been conducted in the country to assess the enormity of the problem; and